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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. Appendix; 16 U.S.C. 90c-1, 460n-5, 460q-5, 460dd-2 *et seq.*, 460mm-4, 508(b); 25 U.S.C. 396d, 2107; 30 U.S.C. 189, 192c, 293, 359; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

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43 U.S.C. 1201, 1732(b), 1733, 1740; 35 Stat. 315; 47 Stat. 1487.

SOURCE: 53 FR 39461, Oct. 7, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 3590—Solid Minerals (Other Than Coal) Exploration and Mining Operations—General

§ 3590.0-1 Purpose.

The purpose of the regulations in this part is to promote orderly and efficient prospecting, exploration, testing, development, mining and processing operations and production practices without waste or avoidable loss of minerals or damage to deposits; to encourage maximum recovery and use of all known mineral resources; to promote operating practices which will avoid, minimize or correct damage to the environment—land, water and air—and avoid, minimize or correct hazards to public health and safety; and to obtain a proper record and accounting of all minerals produced.

§ 3590.0-2 Policy.

The regulations in this part are administered under the direction of the Director, Bureau of Land Management.

§ 3590.0-3 Authority.

Authority for carrying out the regulations in this part is set out in § 3500.0-3 of this title, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3590.0-5 Definitions.

As used in this part, the term:

(a) *Established requirements* means applicable law and regulations, lease, license or permit terms, conditions and special stipulations; approved mine or exploration plan requirements; and orders issued by the authorized officer.

(b) *General mining order* means a formal numbered order issued in a rule-making procedure by the Department of the Interior which implements the regulations in this part and applied to mining and related operations.

(c) *Lessee* means any person, partnership, association, corporation or municipality that holds a mineral lease, through issuance or assignment, in whole or part, which lease is subject to the provisions of this part.

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(d) *Licensee* means any person, partnership, association, corporation or municipality that holds a mineral license, through issuance or assignment, in whole or part, which license is subject to the provisions of this part.

(e) *Permittee* means any person, partnership, association, corporation or municipality that holds a mineral prospecting permit, through issuance, or assignment, in whole or part, which permit is subject to the provisions of this part.

(f) *Operator* means anyone authorized to conduct operations pursuant to the regulations in this part.

(g) *Reclamation* means the measures undertaken to bring about the necessary reconditioning or restoration of lands or water affected by exploration, mining, on-site processing operations or waste disposal in a manner which, among other things, will prevent or control on-site or offsite damage to the environment.

(h) *Ultimate maximum recovery* means that all portions of a leased Federal mineral deposit shall be mined, based on standard industry operating practices. The requirement to achieve ultimate maximum recovery does not in any way restrict the authorized officer's authority to ensure the conservative of the mineral resource and protection of the other resources.

§ 3590.0-7 Scope.

The regulations in this part govern operations for the discovery, testing, development, mining, reclamation, and processing of all minerals under lease, license or permit issued for Federal lands under the regulations in Group 3500 of this title or part 3140 of this title. For operations, involving the extraction of hydrocarbon from tar sands or oil shale by in-situ methods utilizing boreholes or wells, part 3160 of this title is applicable. These regulations also govern operations for all minerals on Indian tribal lands and allotted Indian lands leased under 25 CFR parts 211 and 212. Further, when the regulations in this part related to matters included in 25 CFR part 215 or 216 the regulations in this part shall be considered as supplemental and the regulations in 25 CFR part 215 or 216

shall govern to the extent of any inconsistencies.

§ 3590.2 Responsibility of the authorized officer.

The authorized officer shall regulate prospecting, exploration, testing, development, mining, processing operations, and reclamation authorized under this part. The duties of the authorized officer include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Approval of operating plans and plan modifications after preparation of appropriate environmental analyses. Prior to approving a plan, the authorized officer shall consult with the agency having jurisdiction over the lands with respect to the surface protection and reclamation aspects of such plan.

(b) Inspection, at least quarterly, of leased, licensed or permitted lands where operations for discovery, testing, development, mining, reclamation, or processing of minerals are being conducted.

(c) Inspection and regulation of such operations for the purpose of preventing waste of mineral substances or damage to formations and deposits containing them, or damage to other formations, deposits or nonmineral resources affected by the operations.

(d) Inspecting exploration and mining operations to determine the adequacy of water management and pollution control measures taken for the protection of the quality of surface and groundwater resources and the adequacy of emission control measures taken for the protection of air quality. Such inspection shall be conducted as necessary and shall be fully coordinated with all State and Federal agencies having jurisdiction.

(e) Requiring operators to conduct operations in compliance with established requirements, including the law, regulations, the terms and conditions of the lease, license or permit, the requirements of approved exploration or mining plans, notices and orders and special stipulations.

(f) Obtaining the records of production of minerals and other information as necessary in order to verify that production reported to the Minerals